

TOWN OF SIMSBURY-BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 4, 2010

A. Call to Order

A Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:10 p.m. in the Amphitheater of the Simsbury High School. Present were: First Selectman, Mary Glassman; Board members John Hampton; Lisa Heavner; Robert Hensley and Moira Wertheimer. Selectman Tom Herlihy was absent.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

C. Public Audience

Joan Coe, 26 Whitcomb Drive, expressed concerns with planting vegetables, and possible manure use as fertilizer, for agriculture use on the land east of Barndoor Hill Road. She stated that she preferred the land stay as it is, or to plant a tree farm.

Dave Galt, 41 Madison Lane, expressed support for farming on the property. He stated that organic methods would not use manure, such as chicken, with high urea.

D. Selectmen Discussion and Action

Richard L. Sawitzke, P.E., Town Engineer/Director of Capital Projects, presented a brief background of agriculture use requests from farmers over the past several months. He explained that a co-operative, joint proposal for organic/organic practice methods had been received from: Mr. George L. Hall, Mr. Anthony Napolitano, and Mr. Gary Cirullo.

Selectman Hensley presented the findings of the draft athletic field inventory report. The report indicates that short term field needs are being met, and likely will continue to be met with decreases in population of user groups. Gerry Toner, Director of Culture Parks & Recreation, confirmed these findings.

In response to questions of Selectman Heavner, Mr. Sawitzke, responded that:

- Past land uses were recent 10 years vacant, 20 years of nursery stock growth, and prior to that, tobacco growth.
- Public water is available to all properties surrounding the site.
- Well testing can be done, if any private wells remain. The State previously tested wells and detected no contamination migration beyond the areas of the 1980's.
- A 100' buffer can be created between wetlands, most of which are off-site.
- An agriculture lease can be established for 1 year, with a provision for 1 year extensions.
- A cancellation clause can be included if any lease provisions are violated.

Farm operators Ashley Lane, (Hall Farm) George Hall, and Anthony Napolitano explained organic and organic practice methods of farming, their experiences, and types of crops expected to be planted.

Selectman Wertheimer asked if the Town does any testing at the Community Farm on Wolcott Road. First Selectman Glassman stated that the Town does not.

First Selectman Glassman summarized the discussion points.

Selectman Hampton moved that agricultural leases be approved for: Mr. George L. Hall, Mr. Anthony Napolitano, and Mr. Gary Cirullo

With provisions that:

1. The leases to be for 1 year, with renewal provisions.
2. The Town can cancel the lease if odor issues arise or farming is out of compliance with organic/organic practices methods.
3. Each farm shall submit a report of product application on the land.
4. Soil tests to be conducted by the Town to establish a base benchmark of existing conditions.
5. That a 100 foot buffer be established from any wetlands.

The motion was seconded by Selectman Hensley; all were in favor and the motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary A. Glassman, First Selectman